DISTANCE-LEARNING SYSTEM WITH DYNAMICALLY CONSTRUCTED MENU THAT INCLUDES EMBEDDED APPLICATIONS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

[52]   A distance-learning system includes a toolbar, which may be docked within a Web browser, that has a dynamically constructed menu system and facilitates providing, to distance-learning students, multiple technologies and/or integration of distance-learning activities with Web-based content. To dynamically construct the toolbar's menu structure, the toolbar may obtain profile information from one or more remotely located server computers. The profile information may be specific to an institution and/or an individual user. Menu items within the toolbar may include the following types of items: a hyperlink that, when activated, navigates a Web-pane pane of the browser; a terminal-server client to a remote machine or application; a Unix-shell client; an embedded browser; a local application; and an instance of a docked info bar. Within a Web browser's display, content for distance learning may be displayed in a Web-page pane while a student is performing distance-learning tasks in an embedded-application pane.